

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1192

By Armstrong

A RESOLUTION urging the Department of Health to develop and implement certain initiatives relative to cancer.

WHEREAS, it is the intent of this General Assembly to promote a greater awareness of cancer, and we understand the need to seek the elimination of this disease; and

WHEREAS, it is also our intent to facilitate the continuation of the great strides achieved in tobacco and cancer policy in recent years; to keep all Tennesseans safe from the hazardous effects of tobacco use and secondhand smoke; and to eliminate cancer as a major health issue through public advocacy efforts which highlight research, education, and prevention; and

WHEREAS, colorectal cancer is the second-leading cause of cancer deaths in Tennessee, following only lung cancer; tragically, those suffering colorectal cancer have survival rates of more than ninety percent when the disease is detected early, but fewer than twenty-five percent of Americans follow early detection screening guidelines; and

WHEREAS, we recognize the important role the Department of Health plays in the education of the general public about health issues; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we urge the Department of Health to develop and implement a statewide initiative to increase public awareness of cancer, which shall address the issues of healthcare access for all Tennesseans, access to adequate insurance, and the rewards for individuals and groups who practice healthy behaviors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we urge the Department of Health to develop and implement a statewide initiative to increase awareness among Tennesseans about colorectal cancer and the lifesaving and cost saving benefits of prevention through the practice of healthy habits and of early detection through periodic colorectal screenings.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we urge the Department of Health to pursue the creation of the Tennessee Colorectal Cancer Screening Program for uninsured or underinsured men and women, to be modeled after the Tennessee Breast and Cervical Cancer Screening Program and its eligibility requirements.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we encourage the Department of Health to collaborate with the American Cancer Society and the Tennessee Comprehensive Cancer Control Coalition in its efforts.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we encourage all Tennesseans to raise their awareness on importance of cancer screenings and the effects of pursuing a healthy lifestyle.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be directed to the Commissioner of the Department of Health with this final clause omitted from such copy.